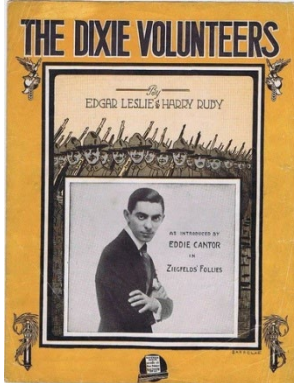


THE DIXIE VOLUNTEERS



“The Dixie Volunteers” by Harry Ruby and Edgar Leslie was copyrighted in 1917 by Waterson Berlin. The cover of the sheet music says, “As introduced by Eddie Cantor in the Ziegfeld’s Follies” but does not say what year.

Stubblebine puts the song in the Ziegfeld Follies of 1919.

In his autobiography, Take My Life (1957), Eddie Cantor says (p. 164): “. . . around 1918 [Harry Ruby] wrote a song with Edgar Leslie that was one of the best war songs ever, ‘The Dixie Volunteers.’ I introduced it in Baltimore during the *Follies of 1918*.”

But Richard Norton, "A Chronology of American Musical Theater" Vol. 2, p. 120, puts it in Ziegfeld Follies of 1917. He says it was in Act I, Scene 9, "Songs and Observations" E. Cantor. His footnote says, "The Dixie Volunteers" was introduced by Eddie Cantor during subsequent tour as per sheet music and biography.

Ann Ommen Van Der Merwe, “The Ziegfeld Follies: A History in Song” (2009), p. 110, says, “. . .when Cantor interpolated a recently composed war song entitled ‘The Dixie Volunteers’ in the fall of 1917, he did so as an addition rather than a substitution.⁵⁰ The song, written by Edgar Leslie and Harry Ruby, is a tribute to southern born soldiers currently heading overseas to fight the Germans.”

Footnote 50: Cantor interpolated “The Dixie Volunteers” into the Follies sometime between November 16 and November 30 [1917]. On November 16, *Variety* reviewed a vaudeville performance in which Cantor sang “‘The Dixie Volunteers’ and the ‘Baby’ number he does in ‘The Follies,’” implying that the former song was not yet part of this Follies routine. On November 30 [1917], however, *Variety* ran an advertisement for the publishers of “The Dixie Volunteers” [Waterson Berlin] thanking Ziegfeld for adding their new song to his Follies production.

The Ziegfeld Follies of 1917 was, in fact, playing in Baltimore between November 16 and November 30, 1917. So Eddie just had the wrong year when he wrote 1918 (and Stubblebine was wrong too).